

Exhibit A14

1 SGT GARY WATTS: Okay. Case number [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
2 [REDACTED] I'm Sergeant Gary Watts, Homicide Division of
3 SFPD, investigating an OIS shot on the 19th.
4 Today's date is, uh, 4/8/16. To my right is--
5 SGT JOHN CAGNEY: Uh, Cagney, 341, Sergeant,
6 SFPD Homicide.
7 DAI DARYL JACKSON: Daryl Jackson, Star 76, DA
8 Investigations.
9 ADA CHERYL WILLS: Cheryl Wills. I'm an
10 Assistant DA.
11 POA ATTY REP SCOTT BURRELL: Scott Burrell
12 here, representing, uh, Sergeant Steger.
13 SGT WATTS: [UNINTELLIGIBLE]
14 SGT NATHANIEL STEGER: I'm Sergeant
15 Nathaniel Steger, Sergeant [NOISE] [UNINTELLIGIBLE]
16 detail.
17 SGT WATTS: All right. Okay. Now just
18 give us your full name. You spell that for me?
19 SGT STEGER: Uh, Nathaniel Steger. N-A-T-H-
20 A-N-I-E-L, S-T-E-G-E-R.
21 SGT WATTS: Star number?
22 SGT STEGER: 2252.
23 SGT WATTS: Date of birth?
24 SGT STEGER: [REDACTED].
25 SGT WATTS: Date of entry?

1 SGT STEGER: Uh, would be [REDACTED] [REDACTED], uh,
2 [REDACTED].
3 SGT WATTS: Current assignment?
4 SGT STEGER: Uh, Company D.
5 SGT WATTS: How long with Company D?
6 SGT STEGER: Uh, as a Sergeant, it's been
7 about two and a half years.
8 SGT WATTS: And current shift.
9 SGT STEGER: Uh, Daywatch, 06-6
10 [UNINTELLIGIBLE].
11 SGT WATTS: And uniform or plainclothes
12 yesterday?
13 SGT STEGER: Uniform.
14 SGT WATTS: No partner?
15 SGT STEGER: Uh, no partner.
16 SGT WATTS: And your call was?
17 SGT STEGER: Uh, 3 David 101.
18 SGT WATTS: And you were carrying a
19 Department firearm?
20 SGT STEGER: Yes.
21 SGT WATTS: What was that?
22 SGT STEGER: Uh, Sig Sauer, .40 caliber, uh,
23 it's, I believe, the 226. P-226.
24 SGT WATTS: Any secondary firearm carried?
25 SGT STEGER: No.

1 SGT WATTS: And you--driving a Department
2 vehicle?
3 SGT STEGER: Yes.
4 SGT WATTS: What was that?
5 SGT STEGER: Uh, that was--um--uh, 230 was
6 the unit number. I don't remember what the
7 precursor is. It's one of the Explorers.
8 SGT WATTS: It's Explorer. Okay. And you
9 the driver. No passengers? Yes?
10 SGT STEGER: No passenger.
11 SGT WATTS: All right, mate. So--gonna ask
12 you to take your time, tell us what happened in
13 yesterday's event, and then after that I'll ask
14 some questions, then we'll go around the table.
15 SGT STEGER: Okay.
16 SGT WATTS: And maybe--maybe we're--
17 [UNINTELLIGIBLE] but we'll finish it, uh, pretty
18 quick.
19 SGT STEGER: Okay.
20 SGT WATTS: So go ahead and--again, what
21 you heard at the get-go.
22 SGT STEGER: Uh--well, I was originally
23 responding to a--uh, alarm call. Uh, 100 call.
24 And, uh, this call came out for a guy wavin' a
25 knife in a--wearing a--a soccer jersey. Um. I

1 heard Mission units going. We were running very
2 light. A lot of SAM units. And, uh, uh, as the
3 supervisor, I figure, you know what? This guy with
4 a knife. We got ERI and W on scene. I should
5 respond. So I pre-empted myself off that to put
6 myself on this run. Um. The initial call, I
7 believe, came out for 17th and Shotwell. I drove
8 down Shotwell northbound from 19th. Um. Heading
9 towards 17th when I passed a--uh--hot team member.
10 I believe it was in a small green call, female, who
11 said he's back there. I had--I had actually driven
12 past, uh, the--the gentleman that they were calling
13 about. Um. Get down to the intersection, I see
14 Officer Mellone. Uh, he's in the intersection with
15 the car. I said, "I was just directed by a hot
16 team that the guy's back behind--behind me." So
17 he--he made the, uh, turns--uh, southbound on
18 Shotwell. I did a U-turn in the intersection,
19 followed up behind him. Um. Uh. Mellone pulled
20 up, uh, next to--there's a encampment, um, tent--
21 SGT WATTS: Sorry.
22 SGT STEGER: And it may have even been two
23 tents. There were a couple people hanging out. He
24 got out. He got out with the EIRW in hand. Um.
25 Because there were two people there, I--quickly

1 exited my vehicle 'cause if this guy was there with
2 a knife, it, um, multiple people, I just wanted to
3 get out. Um. And as I got out, I saw down the
4 street a guy fitting the description of the
5 suspect, uh, wearing a--uh, a soccer jersey with a
6 very, very large knife, uh, in his hand, um,
7 sitting on the--on the pavement against the
8 building. Um. I pointed this out to, uh, Officer
9 Mellone. We both started to walk towards the guy.
10 Um. Mellone being the one with the EIRW started
11 issuing the commands. Uh, asking, you know,
12 telling him to, uh, uh, uh--either lay on the
13 ground or--or, uh--um--and to drop the knife or--
14 or--what--what have you. I don't remember the
15 specific commands that were being given. I, uh,
16 um--what I saw was I saw the guy sitting against
17 the building. He had the knife on the ground in
18 his hand holding it and what I remember is him
19 when, uh, Officer Mellone issued the commands, he
20 opened his hand--letting go of the knife and then
21 he grabbed it again. And that was--for me, uh--
22 that was a huge concern because at that point I'm
23 going, "Why is he grabbing this knife again?" Um.
24 So I was very much concerned with that. Um. It
25 was at that point that I believe, uh, Officer

1 Mellone, um, fired the EIRW at him once. Um.
2 There was, uh, a brief moment where the guy just
3 was not compliant, started to get up. Officer
4 Mellone fired again. Guy started to get up. He's-
5 -he walks kind of at a--at a--like a, uh, a angle
6 almost westbound but kind of in a--almost a--a, uh,
7 uh, uh, northwest direction and then he hooks
8 immediately in, comes running at me with the knife
9 in his right hand in--like he's getting ready to
10 slash. Um, at that moment, I was--I was scared
11 this guy was going to stab me. And I, uh--I--I
12 shoot--I fired my--my gun at him. Um. Center
13 mass. He was not stopping. And I--backed up. As
14 I was firing, 'cause he was comin' in fast and
15 quick, and I fired multiple times until he was
16 down. Um. Once he was on the ground but that was--
17 -that was it. And then I--I re-holstered and--uh--
18 SGT WATTS: Okay. Um. So you went to the
19 scene and, uh, the subject was--sat.
20 SGT STEGER: He was sitting.
21 SGT WATTS: Okay. Uh, do you remember if
22 he was holding a knife? If so, where--which hand?
23 SGT STEGER: Yes.
24 SGT WATTS: Do you remember which hand?
25 SGT STEGER: He was holding it in his--in

1 his right hand.

2 SGT WATTS: Right hand.

3 SGT STEGER: Yeah.

4 SGT WATTS: Did he look at you at all?

5 SGT STEGER: Not initially.

6 SGT WATTS: Okay.

7 SGT STEGER: Um--

8 SGT WATTS: Did you give any commands?

9 SGT STEGER: I did not. Uh, it's been my

10 experience, if one person's given commands, you let

11 them give the commands. I didn't--otherwise it

12 just turns into a bunch of noise. Um. And Officer

13 Mellone's commands were clear and concise. And I

14 saw no reason for me to do--to--to--to say

15 anything.

16 SGT WATTS: And what is--is--would--did

17 the, uh, subject react to those commands?

18 SGT STEGER: Uh, no. Like I said, he--he

19 initially, he opened his hand.

20 SGT WATTS: Hm-hmm.

21 SGT STEGER: And then he grabbed the knife

22 again. Um. And he--uh, he--he looked at us. He--

23 he saw us in full uniform. I mean, he saw us

24 there. He saw us with--uh, you know, Officer

25 Mellone with the shotgun in his hand. The EIRW

1 shotgun in his hand. And me. Uh, there's no doubt
2 in my mind that he saw us. But there was no
3 reaction.

4 SGT WATTS: Okay.

5 SGT STEGER: There was no--nothing verbal,
6 nothing--

7 SGT WATTS: So he--he did look at you.

8 SGT STEGER: He did at--at--at, yeah. At
9 some point he did. Um.

10 SGT WATTS: After he looked at you--after
11 he dropped the knife and then immediately picked it
12 back up--

13 SGT STEGER: Yeah, it wasn't even that he--
14 he dropped--he was sitting on the ground. His hand
15 was on it. He does this--and then he does this
16 again.

17 SGT WATTS: Oh--

18 SGT STEGER: And grabs it again.

19 SGT WATTS: And is that when Mellone used
20 EIRW?

21 SGT STEGER: Yes.

22 SGT WATTS: Do you remember how many times
23 he--he fired?

24 SGT STEGER: I know he fired at least twice.
25 There was--'cause he--he fired once, if a--right--

1 soon after the guy grabbed--grabbed the knife
2 again. Um. He--he fired once and I remember there
3 being a delay before he fired again. Um. So there
4 was--uh, I mean, there was time for the guy to be
5 like--uh, to go, okay. Um. And--

6 SGT WATTS: In between Mellone--

7 SGT STEGER: Yes.

8 SGT WATTS: Cocking the gun.

9 SGT STEGER: Yeah.

10 SGT WATTS: Pumping it.

11 SGT STEGER: And it--it wasn't--and it
12 wasn't just he--fired, cocked it, and fired again.
13 It--he--he fired. He cocked it. And there was--
14 there was a--there was at least--uh, I mean, uh, I
15 don't know. I don't want to say time but, you
16 know, there was--there was, you know, a couple
17 seconds there where--he did not fire and he--he
18 kept--yelling at the guy. Um. And it was a
19 combination of, you know, lay on the ground, drop
20 the knife. But it was very--clear. I remember it
21 being very clear of me--uh, because I remember
22 distinctly going--he's giving all the right
23 commands.

24 SGT WATTS: Hm-hmm.

25 SGT STEGER: He's--I--I can hear him. I

1 don't need to--I don't need to say anything.

2 SGT WATTS: But how soon after Mellone
3 started firing did the subject begin to get up?

4 SGT STEGER: Uh, almost immediately. Almost
5 immediately.

6 SGT WATTS: With any assistance with his
7 hands or--like--or you--or you--or you don't re--or
8 you were focused on--on the individual himself.

9 SGT STEGER: I was--I was focused more on--
10 on the knife, is what I was looking at. And I
11 don't--I don't remember exactly how he got up. Um,
12 whether he pushed himself up or--or--or how exactly
13 he got up.

14 SGT WATTS: When did you point your
15 firearm?

16 SGT STEGER: Uh, my firearm was--I pulled it
17 out, uh, before Mellone had fired the, um, the
18 EIRW. I was lethal cover. There was nobody else
19 there that I was aware of at that time.

20 SGT WATTS: When the subject got up--he's
21 still holding the knife in his right hand?

22 SGT STEGER: Yes.

23 SGT WATTS: You said he kind of wandered
24 off one direction and then all of a sudden motioned
25 back toward you?

1 SGT STEGER: Yes. Um, yeah.

2 SGT WATTS: How was he holding the knife
3 and was his arm raised? Was it pointed--

4 SGT STEGER: It was--it was--it wasn't above
5 head but it was to the side like as in--in, if
6 you're gonna slash something.

7 SGT WATTS: Okay.

8 SGT STEGER: It was not--it was not down.
9 Um, it wasn't down by his side. It was up like--
10 and his body was back.

11 SGT WATTS: Cocked?

12 SGT STEGER: Yes. I, uh, I mean, that's--
13 that's a--

14 SGT WATTS: Like--

15 SGT STEGER: A descriptor. Like--he's
16 getting ready to--no, I mean, it wasn't even like
17 this. It was--like--he's windin' up to--to--

18 SGT CAGNEY: Okay.

19 SGT STEGER: Slash.

20 SGT WATTS: Okay. How much distance was
21 there between you and the subject when he got up to
22 when he wandered off slightly, to when he--to when
23 he turned around and ran towards you? How much
24 distance do you think there was?

25 SGT STEGER: Uh--well, it--initially I want

1 to say, maybe there was 15 feet between us when--
2 SGT WATTS: When he was sitting.
3 SGT STEGER: When we first--when he was
4 sitting.
5 SGT WATTS: Okay.
6 SGT STEGER: And--and we engaged. And then
7 that distance kind of, uh, uh, got a little bit
8 shorter and then when he came directly in, um, uh,
9 and it--when I pulled the trigger, it was--uh, you
10 know, 8 to 10 feet. That was--
11 SGT WATTS: So that's pretty close.
12 SGT STEGER: I mean, I--yeah. Oh, no. It
13 was very close. And I was--I was backing up.
14 SGT WATTS: Do you remember how many shots
15 you fired?
16 SGT STEGER: I don't. Um. The--the--the
17 initial shots were not proving effective. That's
18 what I remember.
19 SGT WATTS: You--you--oh, you mean the
20 initial shots of what?
21 SGT STEGER: Uh, of my--at his--
22 SGT WATTS: Okay, okay--
23 SGT STEGER: At center mass were not--were--
24 were showing no effect.
25 SGT WATTS: So he was still coming towards

1 you.

2 SGT STEGER: No, he was still coming towards
3 me.

4 SGT WATTS: Even after you fired your
5 firearm.

6 SGT STEGER: Yes. Several--

7 SGT WATTS: Or even if you hit the--

8 SGT STEGER: Several times. Yeah. And I
9 know I hit him. Um. And I--I actually--I went for
10 the, you know, for the head. At that point 'cause
11 I--he was not going down and I was, um, I was
12 scared this guy was gonna stab me.

13 SGT WATTS: Were you aware of any of the
14 persons around you?

15 SGT STEGER: Uh, just, uh, I knew Mike
16 Mellone was on my left. I was aware of him. And I
17 knew there were two homeless people, um, behind me.
18 I knew that Officer Perez showed up but I was not
19 aware that he was there at that time. Um. I
20 didn't--I was not aware of his presence until he--
21 asked me if he wanted to grab the knife. Uh.

22 SGT WATTS: Are you CIT-trained?

23 SGT STEGER: No.

24 SGT WATTS: After the subject went down--
25 how did he fall to the ground?

1 SGT STEGER: Um. He just--he--he kind of--I
2 would say he kind of fell backwards.
3 SGT WATTS: Hm-hmm.
4 SGT STEGER: And just kind of collapsed.
5 SGT WATTS: And then what--
6 SGT STEGER: Uh, he still had the knife in
7 his hand.
8 SGT WATTS: Okay. And then what happened?
9 SGT STEGER: Um. I actually holstered up,
10 uh, almost immediately after he collapsed, which--
11 uh, I'm surprised I did. Um. But, uh--uh, but I
12 still like--okay, this guy is still--he--I could
13 see his chest moving. I could see he was still
14 breathing. Um. I was--I would--I would definitely
15 describe that I was in a little bit of shock of--
16 about what just had occurred. Um. And I went,
17 okay, he's still breathing. He still has a knife
18 in his hand. Um. We need to get the knife away
19 from him. Can't even render aid yet. We got any
20 medical--you know. Um. And so I walked around him
21 and I stood on his hand, just--so that--in case--
22 you know, I didn't know--I didn't know what shape
23 he was in. I knew he was breathing. Um. And I
24 stood--I stood on his wrist and then that's when I
25 became aware of Officer Perez 'cause he goes,

1 "Sarge, do you want me to get the knife?" Um. And
2 I said, "Yeah, get the knife out of his hand."

3 SGT WATTS: Okay.

4 SGT STEGER: And I could--I could hear--
5 Officer Mellone on the air saying, "Shots fired."
6 Saying, uh, you know, "We need a 408." Um. He
7 was--he was covering the bases.

8 SGT WATTS: Sure. And when he came at you--
9 --when the subject came at you with a knife, you
10 were in fear for your life?

11 SGT STEGER: Oh, yeah, I was--I was scared
12 that he--he was gonna kill me.

13 SGT WATTS: Is that the first time anything
14 like that has happened to you?

15 SGT STEGER: Um, to this degree, yeah. I
16 mean, I've been in other--other--hairy situations
17 but this was--this was the most scared that I've
18 been, that somebody was actually trying to take my
19 life.

20 SGT WATTS: Given the proximity, given the
21 situation?

22 SGT STEGER: Yes. And the look--uh, the--
23 the--I mean--the look in his eyes. He's--he looked
24 determined, is--is what I--I remember. Look in his
25 eye was just--

1 SGT WATTS: From when you arrived on scene.
2 I should say this. You arrived on scene but from
3 when Mellone gave the first commands to when you
4 opened fire, any idea how long that--this--that
5 time--timeframe was?
6 SGT STEGER: From when--uh, so I'm sorry.
7 From when Mellone--
8 SGT WATTS: Gave commands?
9 SGT STEGER: Gave commands to when I, uh,
10 um--uh, it was--it all happened really quickly. I
11 mean, he just got up. He--he got--he--he got--it
12 almost looked like he had made it--he--he'd thought
13 about it for a second and then he--he--made some
14 thought of "I'm not gonna let go of my knife." And
15 then he got up almost like he was--uh, I wasn't
16 sure if he was gonna start walkin' across the
17 street or walk away from us 'cause it was--he
18 wasn't directly at us initially. And then all of a
19 sudden, uh, it was almost like he just made a
20 decision that I--I'm gonna kill somebody or--
21 something. I don't know what happened. But then
22 all of a sudden he--he came running at us.
23 SGT WATTS: Okay.
24 SGT STEGER: Um. And--I mean--he was
25 directly comin' for me.

1 SGT WATTS: And it was quick.
2 SGT STEGER: It was--it was--extremely
3 quick.
4 SGT WATTS: [UNINTELLIGIBLE]?
5 SGT CAGNEY: Well, you--you--I think you
6 answered just one of the key ones, Sergeant, uh--
7 uh, we spoke to Officer Mellone. Um. Did you feel
8 that he was fixated--the individual with the knife
9 was fixated on you or both of you or--
10 SGT STEGER: I--I thought--uh, he--he was
11 looking right at me.
12 SGT CAGNEY: So you think--
13 SGT STEGER: He was coming directly at me.
14 He wasn't--uh, and that was the thing. Is he
15 wasn't just kind of standing there waving the knife
16 around and--and randomly. He, like, was--coming
17 directly at me. I mean--looking at me with the
18 knife, you know, as--as you say, cocked. I mean,
19 he was--back like he's getting ready to--to slash.
20 SGT CAGNEY: When you saw him sitting up
21 against the sidewalk, Officer Mellone employed the
22 Extended Range Impact Weapon, did it appear that it
23 was having any effect on him? The rounds?
24 SGT STEGER: No. I--I--he just--he kind of--
25 --he obviously was aware of it.

1 SGT CAGNEY: Right.

2 SGT STEGER: But he didn't--he did--he
3 showed no signs of pain. He showed no signs of--
4 you know, surprise. He just kind of--um--and then
5 he started to get up. Um. Yeah.

6 SGT CAGNEY: You kind of discuss this a
7 little bit so, you know, I won't ask you the
8 mechanical aspects of how he--he propelled himself
9 to his feet. But how would you characterize his
10 movement from a sitting to a standing to a running
11 position? Was it one fluid motion, very quick, or
12 was this something where he kind of got to his
13 feet, kind of decided what he was gonna do and then
14 made a--

15 SGT STEGER: Yeah, yeah, I would say he kind
16 of got to his feet. Kind of started--um--started
17 walking and then it was like he kind of changed his
18 mind, almost. Um. And--and--and then he just--he
19 came running at--uh, um, that--that was kind of--
20 that was my interpretation--

21 SGT CAGNEY: Okay.

22 SGT STEGER: Of what--what was goin' on.

23 SGT CAGNEY: And--and again, just goin' back
24 to a little bit--you know, to expand on it and
25 correct me if I'm wrong. The way--the way I heard

1 it initially was, his first couple initial steps
2 kind of seemed like he was--not necessarily
3 menacing you or Officer Mellone is--he was kind of
4 walking away or whatever he was doing but--

5 SGT STEGER: Yeah.

6 SGT CAGNEY: But it wasn't directed
7 necessarily--

8 SGT STEGER: It wasn't directly--

9 SGT CAGNEY: And then, uh, again, not to put
10 words in your mouth, that he makes some kind of
11 decision and decides to--to re-focus.

12 SGT STEGER: Yes.

13 SGT CAGNEY: Is that fair to say?

14 SGT STEGER: Yes. I think so.

15 SGT CAGNEY: And I know you answered this
16 question, you know, a lot of repetition--
17 repetitious questions but how much distance do you
18 think he covered between you and him when he got to
19 his feet and decided he was gonna run at you? I
20 mean, did he close half of it? Three-quarters of
21 it? A quarter of it? Um--

22 SGT STEGER: Um--

23 SGT CAGNEY: If you can estimate.

24 SGT STEGER: I mean, he--he had already
25 gotten rid of about half of the space.

1 SGT CAGNEY: Half the space.

2 SGT STEGER: I--uh, you know, I mean, it
3 was--he kind of--or--or--uh, maybe a little less
4 than half the space because then--it was--he took
5 a--he--he took--there wasn't very many steps but
6 they were fast steps. It was--the--the--arm went
7 back and I had to start backin' up and I--uh, I had
8 to shoot. I had no choice. I mean, uh, he--he--
9 there was nothing else that could have been done.
10 Uh, I--I have always been someone, you know, who
11 has always taken more time than less time when
12 dealing with--with somebody. Um. I--uh, I will,
13 you know, I will spend hours talking to somebody
14 who's out of their mind if I think I can talk them
15 into handcuffs and talk them into getting the car.
16 And not having to put hands on. That's always been
17 the way I've handled things. And this guy gave me--
18 no option. Absolutely none.

19 SGT CAGNEY: Did you have any--awareness of
20 what Officer Mellone was doing while--you know,
21 obviously this guy's now charging at you again to--
22 to characterize your statement and then you
23 obviously employ your firearm. Do you know what he
24 was doing? Was he--

25 SGT STEGER: I, uh, uh, no. He--I--I know

1 that he had deployed the ERIW. Um. And--at that
2 point, you know, I was just aware that--Officer
3 Mellone was next to me. I couldn't see what he was
4 doing. I was focused in on this guy who was trying
5 to kill me.

6 SGT CAGNEY: I got you. Um. And you know
7 what? You've kind of--you know--but a little bit
8 here and there, of--uh, 16, 17 years in the
9 Department, if I--if I'm doing my math correctly?

10 SGT STEGER: Yeah.

11 SGT CAGNEY: But, uh, couple years--

12 SGT STEGER: That's--

13 SGT CAGNEY: As a Sergeant at Mission.

14 SGT STEGER: Couple years as a Sergeant.

15 SGT CAGNEY: And I would--again, not to put
16 words in your mouth. I mean--ballpark, knife
17 incidents. Tens, hundreds?

18 SGT STEGER: Uh--

19 SGT CAGNEY: That you've personally been
20 involved in. In one fashion or another. I mean,
21 how many--I--

22 SGT STEGER: Oh, I--I mean, I--

23 SGT CAGNEY: Incidents have you been
24 involved in?

25 SGT STEGER: Yeah, I--it--I mean, that would

1 be hundreds.

2 SGT CAGNEY: All right.

3 SGT STEGER: I mean, it--encounter people
4 with knives all the time.

5 SGT CAGNEY: All the time.

6 SGT STEGER: I mean, it's--you know, it's
7 the Mission. That is--uh, the weapon of choice.
8 Um. And, uh, I--you know, I've ordered people to
9 drop knives. I've ordered people to keep their
10 hands away from their--their waist bands, their
11 pockets, whatever. Um. Yeah. I--I mean, hundreds
12 of times.

13 SGT CAGNEY: And you mentioned that you
14 responded for--for two reasons. Again, if I'm--I
15 remember what you said, is that you knew an
16 Extended Range Impact Weapon officer was responding
17 to the scene.

18 SGT STEGER: Yes.

19 SGT CAGNEY: And also that there really
20 weren't any available resources so you--you had to
21 act essentially as a patrol officer at that point
22 to--to back up that officer. Is that correct?

23 SGT STEGER: That is correct.

24 SGT CAGNEY: And, uh, did you and Officer,
25 uh, Mellone, I mean, was there--any time to

1 coordinate or talk about what was goin' on or did
2 it happen so quickly where you were just simply--
3 both of you reacting to events?

4 SGT STEGER: It--it happened so quickly. We
5 were both reacting to events. Um. And--and I--you
6 know--like I said, Officer Mellone got out of the
7 car and there were--there were a couple people by
8 the tent there and I didn't know if the suspect was
9 actually in the tent or part of that. So I got out
10 and it--and I--my--my thought was, I gotta get over
11 there just in case, you know, he's walkin' there
12 behind the trees, whatever, and--and--I just wanted
13 to be--his back-up. I wanted to make sure the--
14 that we had numbers there. And then we saw the guy
15 on the sidewalk. Um. And it--you know. Uh, he--
16 had--a really, really large knife next to him.

17 SGT CAGNEY: How would you--how would you
18 characterize--his demeanor? I mean, did he--appear
19 to be in mental altered states? Uh, was there a
20 drug issue there or just, uh, and the--I mean, not--
21 -I don't want to, you know, say for you but--how
22 would you characterize how this guy's, you know,
23 his countenance was to speak. I mean, did he seem
24 like he was agitated? Uh, he was responding
25 correctly? Or out of it?

1 SGT STEGER: He was--he wasn't responding
2 correctly. He wasn't responding--
3 SGT CAGNEY: Yeah.
4 SGT STEGER: Really, to anything.
5 SGT CAGNEY: Okay.
6 SGT STEGER: Uh, there was nothing verbal.
7 There was no physical, like, uh, you know. Hands
8 up, nothing--I mean--um--it--I do know that it did,
9 you know, he looked at us at some point and so he
10 knew we were the police. Um. As far as his mental
11 state, you know, when he was initially sitting
12 there, I couldn't tell you. Um. I just know that
13 he was not--he was not reacting to any commands or
14 anything. He was--he just threw his--almost--uh--
15 no reaction, other than--he actually let go of the
16 knife and then grabbed it again. Um.
17 SGT CAGNEY: Did he, uh, ever say anything?
18 SGT STEGER: He never said--anything.
19 SGT CAGNEY: Okay. And when he let go of
20 the knife, did you think that was in response to
21 one of Officer Mellone's, uh, commands?
22 SGT STEGER: Yeah, I do. I--I think that
23 initially that--I think initially he was like, you
24 know, I--I need to let go of this and then for
25 whatever reason he grabbed it again. And to me

1 that was--that was of great concern. I was like
2 why is this guy grabbing this knife again? Um.
3 You know, what--what's he doing?

4 SGT CAGNEY: And not--not to steal a page
5 from the District Attorney's representative here,
6 but have you ever seen this individual before?
7 Interacted with him? Are you familiar with him at
8 all?

9 SGT STEGER: I--I--I don't think so. And I
10 say "I don't think so" only because we deal with so
11 many, uh, homeless and people on the streets that I
12 may have had contact--uh, brief contact with him at
13 some point and I just don't remember it. Um. I
14 don't--I wouldn't know him by name. I wouldn't
15 know if I had had contact, where it would have been
16 or anything. So.

17 SGT CAGNEY: Final question and--and little
18 bit of final question. Um. Anything unusual about
19 this call that you don't respond to in any 10-hour
20 shift, day in and day out, if--as opposed to when
21 you were responding there when you arrived
22 initially before the interaction began. Uh, was
23 there anything about this call that made you go,
24 "Oh, this--gonna be a much more serious call" or
25 could have been a serious call. What I'm getting

1 at was it--I had to use the word "routine" but it
2 was just another radio call, more or less.

3 SGT STEGER: Well, he--

4 SGT CAGNEY: Or was it somethin' that you
5 were a little--well, this could go--some place--

6 SGT STEGER: Well, uh, we were--you know, I
7 said we were short-staffed.

8 SGT CAGNEY: Right.

9 SGT STEGER: Uh, it was a hot day. And the
10 call--I--I mean--I--I don't think I knew right away
11 that it was called in by a hot team member. But
12 when I arrived on scene and it was a hot team
13 member who said, you know, "The guy's over there"
14 and I was like, "Oh, are you the one who called?"
15 To me, that elevated it.

16 SGT CAGNEY: Okay.

17 SGT STEGER: And the reason why I say that
18 is these are the people who deal with the homeless
19 all the time and they're the ones who--I mean, they
20 also know people's mental states and they know when
21 somethin'--uh, and so for them to call and--and
22 say, "Hey, this guy is wavin' a knife around," that
23 to me is like--okay, this is now--uh, that elevated
24 it more so at that moment for me. I mean, it
25 really kind of--it was like--okay, these are the

1 advocates. They're not gonna, uh, um--they're not
2 just gonna call because there's some, you know--Joe
3 Blow walkin' down the street and they see a knife
4 sitting next to a homeless person--

5 SGT CAGNEY: Sure, sure.

6 SGT STEGER: Which we get plenty of those
7 calls, too.

8 SGT CAGNEY: Right.

9 SGT STEGER: Um. But it--this definitely--
10 the fact that it was a--it was a HOT team member
11 that--that elevated--

12 SGT CAGNEY: Had a credibility to it.

13 SGT STEGER: Oh--oh, yeah.

14 SGT CAGNEY: Yeah.

15 SGT STEGER: Yeah.

16 SGT CAGNEY: And you said you walked back a
17 couple of steps where--I mean were you, like, I
18 need to get away from this guy kind of thing?

19 SGT STEGER: Yeah.

20 SGT CAGNEY: I mean--

21 SGT STEGER: Yeah.

22 SGT CAGNEY: I see.

23 SGT STEGER: Uh, um--yeah, uh, I--I--yeah, I
24 remember--I remembered, you know, taking at least--
25 you know, one or two steps back. I just remember

1 going, I got to, you know, get away.
2 SGT CAGNEY: Gotcha.
3 SGT STEGER: I gotta put some distance
4 between me and this guy.
5 SGT CAGNEY: [UNINTELLIGIBLE]
6 DAI JACKSON: Take it--um--I'm just going
7 back over some [UNINTELLIGIBLE] stuff for me, you
8 know. Uh, the Ford Explorer. Marked unit?
9 SGT STEGER: Yes.
10 DAI JACKSON: Okay, what--uh, lights on the
11 roof?
12 SGT STEGER: Lights. Yeah.
13 DAI JACKSON: Okay. Uh. And you said you
14 were wearing a uniform? Describe the uniform for
15 me.
16 SGT STEGER: Uh, I was wearing the--the
17 short-sleeve, uh, San Francisco Police uniform--
18 DAI JACKSON: Hm-hmm.
19 SGT STEGER: That had my star. All of the--
20 full patched.
21 DAI JACKSON: Okay.
22 SGT STEGER: Uh.
23 DAI JACKSON: Um. And you--you actually
24 spoke with the HOT team member?
25 SGT STEGER: Briefly, yeah.

1 DAI JACKSON: Okay.

2 SGT STEGER: Yes.

3 DAI JACKSON: Um. Male or female?

4 SGT STEGER: Female.

5 DAI JACKSON: All right. Um. Can you--just

6 re--because I--I know we did it last two, just

7 orient us on where you were actually standing on

8 the sidewalk--uh, just prior to--um--as you guys

9 were walkin' up to the subject?

10 SGT STEGER: Uh, I would have been street-

11 side. Um, so the--the sidewalk, uh, is on the east

12 side of Shotwell.

13 DAI JACKSON: Hm-hmm.

14 SGT STEGER: Um, between 19th and 18th.

15 And--and I would have been towards the street-side

16 and Officer Mellone was towards the building line.

17 DAI JACKSON: Okay. Were you--was he still

18 in your peripheral or was he a little behind you?

19 You little--and you a little in front of him?

20 SGT STEGER: He--he was--

21 POA ATTY REP BURRELL: Who's he? Talking

22 about--

23 DAI JACKSON: He, I'm talking about the, uh,

24 Mellone. Was he--

25 SGT STEGER: Okay. [LAUGH]

1 DAI JACKSON: Yeah. Um. Thank you, Counsel.
2 SGT STEGER: Uh, Mellone was, uh--initially
3 he was a little to the front of me.
4 DAI JACKSON: Okay.
5 SGT STEGER: And then as things devolved,
6 uh, and--I--I--I don't know whether his position
7 changed forward or aft but he--he--because I was
8 rotating, he kind of went out of my--
9 DAI JACKSON: Okay.
10 SGT STEGER: Uh, periphery there.
11 DAI JACKSON: Okay. Um. Do you recall how
12 many times you fired?
13 SGT STEGER: No.
14 DAI JACKSON: Okay. Do you recall if you
15 fired first?
16 SGT STEGER: Do what?
17 DAI JACKSON: You fired first yourself or
18 [UNINTELLIGIBLE]--
19 SGT STEGER: I--I--I--I am confident that I
20 fired first.
21 DAI JACKSON: Okay.
22 SGT STEGER: Uh.
23 DAI JACKSON: And--and--just so I'm clear
24 and--and--and it's--clear, uh, describe for me you--
25 -he got up and you say you didn't turn. He was

1 initially--like he took a step or two--in a
2 different direction. But not directly at you or
3 Officer Mellone. So--
4 SGT STEGER: Yeah.
5 DAI JACKSON: Did--does that mean that you
6 kind of saw portion of his back? Did he turn that
7 far away from you?
8 SGT STEGER: No. No, no. He was--he was
9 still coming in our direction.
10 DAI JACKSON: Okay.
11 SGT STEGER: It just wasn't directly at us.
12 It was kind of at an angle, almost like going
13 towards--more towards the street.
14 DAI JACKSON: So--
15 SGT STEGER: But kind of--in--in--in the
16 same direction as us. And then as he's turn--then
17 he all of a sudden--changed his trajectory and
18 came--
19 DAI JACKSON: Okay. So initially he would
20 have been cutting it--cutting you off. If you
21 would have--if you'd a continued walking toward--
22 SGT STEGER: He would have--yeah.
23 DAI JACKSON: Okay.
24 SGT STEGER: Yeah.
25 DAI JACKSON: All right. And how many steps

1 do you think that was before he made that--he chose
2 to then come directly towards you?

3 SGT STEGER: Um, he probably took two--two
4 or three like kind of longer steps, as--

5 DAI JACKSON: Okay.

6 SGT STEGER: Kind of, uh--uh, that's what I
7 remember.

8 DAI JACKSON: Okay. I'm good. Thank you.

9 ADA WILLS: Hi, Sar--

10 SGT STEGER: Hi.

11 ADA WILLS: Um. I just have a couple of
12 questions. When, uh--you made contact with the HOT
13 team members, you said they were in a green car?

14 SGT STEGER: I--I--yeah, it was a dark-
15 colored car. I--I--kind of remember it being a--
16 like a small, uh, like a, uh, a green compact of
17 some sort. I--I remember it had the--the magnetic
18 sticker on the side of it.

19 ADA WILLS: Um, and that was when you were
20 driving on Shotwell from--

21 SGT STEGER: On Shotwell.

22 ADA WILLS: 19th to 18th.

23 SGT STEGER: Yes.

24 ADA WILLS: Um. And at that first pass,
25 did you see the subject at all?

1 SGT STEGER: I did not initially 'cause I--I
2 was focused in on--um--getting to--I--I actually
3 thought it was at 17th. So I thought I was two
4 blocks away.

5 ADA WILLS: Hm-hmm.

6 SGT STEGER: I mean, if I had even been at
7 18th and then going towards 17th, I would have
8 been--um, I probably would have been a little more
9 cognizant of--of what was around me but I really
10 wasn't looking for him yet. Um. I was aware that
11 he was in the area. But I was kind of--still
12 thinking, I need to get--need--I need to get
13 closer. Um. Yeah, I don't--uh, I kind of--looking
14 back on it, I--I think maybe they got their
15 intersection wrong when they--when they called the--
16 -

17 ADA WILLS: Made the initial call.

18 SGT STEGER: Yeah. Or I--heard it wrong on
19 the radio. But I--for whatever reason, I remember
20 it being 17th and Shotwell and not--not being 18th
21 and Shotwell or--definitely not 19th and Shotwell.

22 ADA WILLS: When you then made a U-turn and
23 came back and you were behind Officer Mellone--

24 SGT STEGER: Yes.

25 ADA WILLS: Um. Do you see where the car

1 is that had--did they leave the area or the HOT
2 team car? Was it still in the vicinity? If you
3 recall.

4 SGT STEGER: I--I, uh, I don't--I don't
5 remember.

6 ADA WILLS: Uh, I--I just want to clarify
7 for myself the, uh, when--when the subject is
8 sitting on the ground and, um, Officer Mellone is--
9 is issuing the commands, you say that he--was the
10 knife on the ground as well--

11 SGT STEGER: Yes.

12 ADA WILLS: And he had the--his hand--his
13 right hand on the--

14 SGT STEGER: On--uh, he--he had a hold of
15 it. It was in the grass. And then I remember him
16 opening his hand and then he--he grabbed the knife
17 again.

18 ADA WILLS: Um, was there any distance
19 between his hand when he opened it and the--uh--the
20 handle of the knife or it just appeared to you that
21 he opened it, his hand wide so he no longer had
22 physical control and then he re--

23 SGT STEGER: And then he just re--yeah. I
24 mean, he never--he never lifted his hand off the
25 knife. So his hand was in--in constant contact

1 with the knife. But he--he kind of--let--he--he--
2 released his grasp and then he grasped it again.
3 It--it--I--I--yeah. And that's what I remember
4 seeing.

5 ADA WILLS: Okay. And then--and then just
6 to orient myself as to where all the individuals
7 and--were, um--the subject is, um, along the
8 building line, facing the street--

9 SGT STEGER: Yeah.

10 ADA WILLS: The east side of the--sidewalk.

11 SGT STEGER: Yes.

12 ADA WILLS: Um. Officer Mellone is to the
13 subject's--right?

14 SGT STEGER: Yes.

15 ADA WILLS: Closer to 18th. Is that right?

16 SGT STEGER: Yes.

17 ADA WILLS: Um. And then you were sort of
18 in front of him, uh, back to the street, um, closer
19 to 19th.

20 SGT STEGER: No.

21 ADA WILLS: No.

22 SGT STEGER: No, no. We're both--

23 ADA WILLS: Okay.

24 SGT STEGER: Coming from, um, we're both--
25 we're both walking, uh, south on Shotwell.

1 ADA WILLS: Okay.

2 SGT STEGER: So--Officer Mellone and I are
3 kind of parallel to each other. Um, so I'm still
4 to the subject's right as well. I'm just off to
5 the street.

6 ADA WILLS: Okay.

7 SGT STEGER: Towards--more towards the
8 street side.

9 ADA WILLS: So then when he gets up off of
10 the ground after the ERIW is deployed, does he--
11 I'm--I'm just trying to figure out how--he makes a
12 turn and that turn is that towards 19th so--

13 SGT STEGER: No.

14 ADA WILLS: Away--okay, so--

15 SGT STEGER: No, no--

16 ADA WILLS: Tell me how it happened.

17 SGT STEGER: So he gets up. Um, so he gets
18 up and he kind of does a diagonal--almost--almost
19 going to a northwest type of direction.

20 ADA WILLS: So still towards your
21 direction.

22 SGT STEGER: Yes. Still towards our
23 direction, just not directly towards us. So like--
24 I wasn't sure if he was just gonna--kind of run,
25 keep goin' across the street or--or what was gonna

1 happen and then he immediately--uh, changed
2 direction and--and came at me.

3 ADA WILLS: When he was, uh, facing the--
4 the direction where he wasn't walking directly
5 towards you, if he had continued would he have been
6 on your right side? Do you see what I'm saying?

7 SGT STEGER: Uh, it--uh, eventually he would
8 have been.

9 ADA WILLS: Okay.

10 SGT STEGER: Um. He was still--he was still
11 very much to the front but he was coming at an
12 angle, um, yeah.

13 ADA WILLS: And then could you--you know,
14 I, uh--taking a question from Sergeant Cagney. Uh,
15 I know that it's difficult to--to estimate time.
16 Uh, time and space is sometimes difficult.

17 SGT STEGER: Yeah.

18 ADA WILLS: But how much time do you think
19 elapsed from the time you made initial contact
20 when, uh, Officer Mellone began to issue--issue
21 commands to the time that you actually fired lethal
22 shots. How much do you think elapsed?

23 SGT STEGER: Um. It--the--it happened--it
24 happened quick. Um. Uh, it--10 seconds, 15
25 seconds? I mean, it was--it was quick.

1 ADA WILLS: And--when the, uh, subject sort
2 of shifted focus and ran, he was running directly
3 at you.

4 SGT STEGER: Yes.

5 ADA WILLS: And, again, I'm sorry to be
6 redundant but as you fired a lethal round, how far
7 away do you think he was from you?

8 SGT STEGER: Uh, he was--uh, uh, 8 to 10
9 feet. Maybe that amount. I mean, it--yeah. I--I--
10 -and even 10 feet might be stretching it as far as-
11 -distance away. He was closer than--that. I--I--
12 um--8 to 10 feet is what I'm [UNINTELLIGIBLE].

13 ADA WILLS: Okay. I don't have any other
14 questions.

15 SGT CAGNEY: Counsel? Nothing? Thank you,
16 Sergeant. Appreciate your, uh, cooperation. Thank
17 you.

18 ADA WILLS: Uh, it's, um--

19 **END OF DOCUMENT**